

REMARKS

Claims 6-12 are pending for further examination. Claims 6-9 are currently amended.

Claims 11-12 are new. Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claims 7-9, which the Examiner indicated included allowable subject matter, have been amended to incorporate the features of independent claim 5, from which they depended. Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 7-9 are in condition for allowance and should be allowed.

Claims 6 and 10-12 depend from claims 7-9 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claims 7-9.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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No fees are believed due. However, please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/20/06

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